

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2002 LB 326

announcement earlier this morning, we now move to LB 326.
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 326, a bill introduced by Senator Suttle. (Read title.) Introduced on January 8 of last year, at that time referred to the Education Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0225, Legislative Journal page 572, First Session, 2001.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this is a brand new bill that we have never talked about on the floor of the Legislature. Anyone who would be interested, I have a sample of what this is about, and what each person would receive when they have a new baby. It's got all kinds of things in it, from library cards to videos of how children progress and their growth and development in the first year. There's all...there's immunization charts, there's all kinds of things. There is a great need for this. We will probably want only corporations to pay for this since the state does not have any money to pay for it. Let me read to you a little bit about what the Department of Education said about this particular bill: For a host of reasons, Nebraska young children are arriving at school less prepared to be successful in school. Principals and kindergarten teachers are the...are seeing the condition of many children at entrance to schools becoming more and more of a concern. While the concerns are chiefly about children's language development, we also hear educators express worry about children's health status, and their capacity to control themselves and to interact positively with other children in a class. Many parents of young children face stresses none of us ever imagined when we were at the age of young parenthood, stress brought about chiefly by long hours of work usually by all the adults in the household. There's simply not as much time available to families to attend to what was formerly taken for granted as part of parenting. And more and more young parents do not have the support of an extended family to pass on the knowledge and practice of being a parent. It is of the most...utmost importance to the future economic and